# Amnsements Co-Night.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Art Loan Exhibition.
BISOU OPERA HOUSE—8—"Orpheus and Eurydice."
DALY'S THEATRE—8—"Seven-Twenty-Eight."
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—"Friend and Foe."
HAVERLY'S SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—8—Minstrels.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8.30—"Rajah."
NEW PARK THEATRE—8." The Princess Chuck."
NIBLO'S GARDEN—8—"The Princess Chuck."
NIBLO'S GARDEN—8—"The Princess Chuck."
STRETHEATRE—8—"Hamlet."
ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH (Hassement)—Fair.
THEATRE COMIQUE—2 and 8—"Cordelia's Aspirations."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—8—"Storm Beaten."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—8—"An American Wife."
SD AVENUE THEATRE—8—"Zillah."

OTH AVENUE THEATRE—8—"Fled Glass of Fashion."
14TH STREET THEATRE—8—"Fedora."

### Index to Aovertisements.

	WALKER AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE
Page	gal Notices

TABLES,

	Business	Nonces.
	"ALDERNEY	Brand"
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CHAIRS, &c.,

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# New-Hork Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.-Joseph Poole was hanged in Dublin yesterday for the murder of Kenny. ==== The Crown Prince visited the Pope, \_\_\_\_ The supplementary Tonquin credit bill was voted in the Chamber of Deputies. === The trial of nine dynamiteurs in Edinburg was continued. ==== Daly led Garnier in the billiard match in France. === Sir | the proof which we have given of the misuse of John Hawley Glover has been appointed Governor the public money in Mr. Thompson's departof Newfoundland.

Congress.-The Senate yesterday was reorganized by the election as officers of that body the nominees of the Republican caucuses; the report of the Committee on Rules was further considered, without action. - The House was not in session.

Domestic.—The Railroad Commissioners began an inquiry yesterday concerning the burning of the sleeping car Tolano. = Six men were severely injured by the explosion of two boilers in Pittsburg yesterday. === Five members of the Ku-Klux-Klan confessed their guilt at Atlanta, Ga., and were sentenced to imprisonment. === The fishing smacks George H. Pierson and Helen M. Dennison, with twenty-two men, are reported to have been Louisiana met at Baton Rouge yesterday and appointed a Committee on Credentials. = Fossil made now. The jurymen can find all the tracks and remains of great interest were discovered at Portland. Conn.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-THE TRIBUNE to-day gives figures from 83 contracts let by Commis-Bioner Thompson on unbalanced bids, --- The Board of Estimate and Apportionment yesterday appropriated \$20,000 for the Special Grand Jury's work of investigation. == The death of Rose Keiser was declared by the Coroner's jury to be a suicide. = General di Cesnola was cross-examined further. === The Republican Central Committee adjourned sine die. === The trial of the De Meli divorce case was continued. Superintendent Walling produced the police records showing that Justice Murray deserted on the second day of the riots in 1863. — There was a blight panie in Grammar School No. 53. — The Phæbe Paullin inquest was continued at Orange. == Captain Gordon, charged with abducting Addie Bresnan, was found guilty. ==== The examination into the alleged conspiracy against the Legion of Honor was resumed. = Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (41212 grains), 85.39 cents. == Stocks, after opening active and higher, were dull, fluctuating and lower, and closed

THE WEATHER.-TRIBUNE local -observations indicate cloudy weather, with chances of snow, followed by fair or clear and colder weather. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 40°; lowest, 24°; average, 353go.

As often as occasion has required, of late, the teachers in our public schools have shown much tact and firmness in the way they control their pupils. In Grammar School No. 53, vesterday, the sudden illness of one of the instructors frightened the children terribly; but the other teachers checked the panic quickly and easily. Later the arrival of an anxious mother, who announced excitedly that the building was on fire, again caused alarm, but this was as coolly allayed as before. To stand two such tests in one day speaks well for the teachers and for the system of fire drill in which the children are trained.

Bartholdi's statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World " is now entirely finished, according to a dispatch from the committee in Paris, sent to General Grant day before yesterday. The announcement should stimulate to renewed efforts the New-York committee which has the Pedestal Fund in charge. Money enough has been received, we believe, to pay for the foundation for the pedestal on Bedloe's Island; and the Loan Collection will probably net a handsome sum to be added to the amount already in hand. But then we shall be far short of the \$250,000 required to pay for the entire

The French Deputies have voted 20,000,000 francs to carry on the Tonquin expedition. This action, together with the Cabinet's "energy in defending the honor of France," has caused M. Ferry to plume himself immensely. He intimated yesterday that, if too many questions were asked, the Deputies would have to look around for other men to carry on the Government. M. Ferry seems to be going a little too fast. Judging from the debates in the Chamber in regard to the Tonquin credit, the Deputies have little confidence in the Ministry; but they see that France is in a bad position from | it has been. The parties have reached a point which she can be extricated only by standing by the Government at present. This is a vastly | will eventually have to be made. It is reported | maiden name. The judge granted the decree, | But, for another thing, we insist that Mr. Cox is not

different attitude from the one M. Ferry is pleased to assume that the Chamber occupies.

The authorities of Orange, N. J., who have been investigating the Paullin murder, seem to have discovered clews well worth following up. The fact that the man Franck, who recently tried to commit suicide, was not met by any one on the road near the scene of the crime at the time he says he was there and which must have been about the hour when the deed was done, is against him. But the matter ought to be investigated more vigorously. The coroner's jury meets now and then, hears a little evidence, and adjourns for a week. This is exactly as it ought not to be if the officers of the law expect to make out a case against Franck. Moreover it is cruelly unjust to the accused man that he is not allowed to present his defence He has not been proved guilty yet, and he has. rights that a good lawyer would force the authorities to respect.

Poole, who was hanged yesterday in Dublin, is probably the last man who will have to pay the penalty for complicity in the Phænix Park murders. His connection with the tragedy was something like O'Donnell's; he helped to kill Kenney, who was suspected of having given information to the police about the assassination of Cavendish and Burke. We have yet to learn the fate of the other guilty Irishmen who betrayed their fellow-scoundrels in the Phœnix Park affair. The British colonies refused them a landing, and at last accounts the English Government had not found an asylum for them. Then came the excitement about the killing of Carey, and under cover of 2that, they have managed to disappear. The hanging of O'Donnell and Poole adds to their chances of a long life, wherever they may be.\_

MR. THOMPSON AND THE GRAND JURY Commissioner Thompson resembles William M. Tweed, his predecessor in the Department of Public Works, in other things besides his fondness for the system of unbalanced bids in city contracts. In boldness and effrontery he is little behind the Chief of the old Ring. After THE TRIBUNE has proved from the official records that the sums appropriated for his department have been misused in an outrageous manner, he goes before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and insists that his excessive estimates ought not to be cut down. And because the President of the Tax Department shows a disposition to resist any such waste of public funds, Mr. Thompson takes the word out of his mouth with a sneer.

The Commissioner of Public Works can probably count on the hearty support of Mr. John Reilly for his most exorbitant demands. Mr. Reilly has been elected to an office the emoluments of which are understood to be \$100,000 per year. Naturally he is in a generous frame of mind. And he has always shown himself the ally of extravagance and excess in municipal affairs.

But the other members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment have shown more respect for public opinion and more concern for the burdens of the taxpayers. In the face of ment, it is their plain duty to scrutinize his figures with the utmost care and to cut down his estimates to the lowest sum for which the necessary work of the department can be carried on.

The Special Grand Jury of the Oyer and Terminer has also a plain duty to perform. pipes out that he is a tariff reformer. The contracts of the Public Works Department must be thoroughly overhauled, and all the operations of that department must be investigated exhaustively. An appropriation of \$20,000 has been made in order that the jury may employ such expert assistance as may be needed. This will not be available until books and papers from which THE TRIBUNE figures have been copied in the proper departments. They need not wait for experts to show them the fraudulent character of the unbalanced bid contracts. Then let them look behind the contracts. Let them find out the men who are back of them, and what their relations are to persons in positions of trust. In order to get at all the corruption existing in the municipal departments, they will of course need expert accountants of a high order of ability and of perfect independence and honesty. But they can find out a great deal before the 1st of January if they set themselves diligently at work now.

We hope that such arrangements may be made in the Court of Oyer and Terminer that this Grand Jury may present all its reports to the Justice who gave the charge. This is only proper and befitting. The Chief Justice instructed them as to the work they were to do. To him their reports should be made.

PARCELLING OUT TERRITORY. Curious confirmation of the opinions expressed yesterday about the war of Western roads appears in a Chicago dispatch. It states that the triple alliance between the Union Pacific, St. Paul and Rock Island has a purpose definitely expressed in the contract, which binds each of the three companies not to build extensions to interfere with either of the others. Naturally, the three companies which make this territorial compact would be glad to have the other roads-the Burlington and Quincy and the Northwestern-join their new pool and bind themselves in the same way. But it is equally natural that the Burlington and Quincy, which has already a line to Denver, with branches tapping the Union Pacific, and connection with the Denver and Rio Grande and by means of that with the Central Pacific, should hesitate to bind itself not to interfere with the Union Pacific. An attempt to make a division of territory between these two competing lines would involve some difficulty. It is also natural that the Northwestern, having already spent money in building a line to Deadwood, should hesitate to bind Itself not to continue that line to Ogden. Every effort to lock up competing roads within strict territorial limits, beyond which they are not to seek traffic or accept connections, has been found exceedingly difficult, and such compacts when made have been apt to result in constant

But the people of the Union Pacific, [Rock Island and St. Paul roads are not unreasonable on their side. If they are willing to lagree with each other, territorially and as to rates, there is no reason why they should not prefer to do so, and discontinue agreements with roads that are not willing. Hence some concession will have to be made by both parties, in order to avoid a competition that must injure both, and the sooner such concessions are made on both sides, the sooner both will get the benefit of the valuable business for which they are fighting. Thus it is not strange that although the proposed pool meeting yesterday adjourned without action, a Chicago dispatch pronounces the prospect for an early settlement brighter than at which both can see that concessions by both

that a new plan has been privately considered, which will be submitted at a meeting later this week, and it is thought likely to be adopted But whether the roads are now ready to agree on concessions, or are not yet ready, they all know that concessions are inevitable.

It is often said that the building of competing roads is evidence that Government restraint or control is necessary. But this reasoning goes on the assumption that competing lines are always harmful to the public. When shrewd men put their money into the construction of a new railroad, there is presumptive evidence that the traffic is large enough to support both the old and the new lines, if not at once, in the near future. Men make mistakes at times, even when they invest their money after the most careful investigation. But all experience goes to prove that Government would make more mistakes.

THE DEMOCRATIC LAST DITCH. The extremely painful time has arrived in the

history of the Democratic party when it feels called upon to abandon the last of its distinctive "convictions."

How many of them it has abandoned during the last quarter of a century! The fact is, that it has only got on at all as it has surrended its convictions" and come upon Republican ground. Its convictions on slavery, its convictions on emancipation, its convictions on the war being "a failure," its convictions on the greenback, its convictions on the draft, its convictions on paying the debt in depreciated currency, its convictions on the constitutional amendments, its convictions on resumption-all these it has surrendered. Free trade was its last ditch. And now, with quantities of mental reservations, it surrenders free trade and announces that it will do business at the old stand as "a tariff reformer."

Is the surrender bona fide, or merely for revenue only? It is impossible to answer this question, since, as yet, there has been no authoritative Democratic definition of a tariff reform. No two Democrats agree as to what it is. The general opinion seems to be that a tariff reformer is a tariff-for-revenue-only man in a tentative disguise. If this general opinion be correct, then of course the surrender is a sham Now and then a Democratic editor, eager that his party shall both have its cake and eat it, or rather that it may successfully ride two horses, argues that a tariff for revenue only is not to be confounded with free trade. But up to date no metaphysician has arisen who has been able to point out the material difference between the two. The masses seem to believe that the difference is not greater than that which exists between tweedledee and tweedledum.

Mr. Carlisle's attitude as a candidate for the Speakership would argue that the report of the surrender was unfounded. But his attitude since he gained the office is calculated to produce the impression that the surrender, if it had not already taken place, had at least been determined upon by the leaders. On the other hand, as sagacious and frank an exponent of Democracy as The Sun scouts the idea that there has been a surrender, adding that the fact that there has not been bids fair to make shipwreck of Democratic prospects in the near future, One thing is certain, however; and that is, that the inability of the masses to agree upon the "convictions" which Demorcacy holds upon the tariff is very bad for the Demorcacy.

Honesty on the tariff as on other things is the best policy. For an avowed free trader there is respect. There cannot be for a free trader, who, wanting the courage of his convictions,

THE ROTTEN CONTRACT SYSTEM.

Owing to the scandalous methods of transacting the business of the Public Works Department, a burden of millions of dollars has within comparatively a few years been imposed on the taxpayers. Such a system should not be permitted to continue another day. But under existing laws so long as Commissioner Thompson remains in office the city will suffer. It ought to be the first duty of the Legislature to provide relief. The law which permits Commissioner Thompson to expend at will \$1,000,000 a year from the issue of Croton Water Bonds should be repealed; and the work of providing the city with an additional water supply left entirely in the hands of the Aqueduct Commission. All contracts should have the approval of the Board of Estimate, or some body other than the person who makes them, before the city becomes liable on them; and no contractor should have the right to recover from the city a greater sum than the total amount of his bid. The preparation of false estimates should be made a misdemeanor. The fraudulent \$999 system ought to be swept away; and Commissioner Thompson should be held responsible for any infraction of the provisions of the existing statute in regard to contracts.

With a few changes of this character in the laws a considerable improvement would follow. The need of it is strikingly manifest from the facts presented in THE TRIBUNE today in regard to 83 unbalanced bid contracts let by Commissioner Thompson. For receiving basins the prices vary from one cent to \$515 each; and for rock excavation from one cent to \$30 a cubic yard. For the same kind of sewer the prices paid vary from \$2 95 to \$19 89 a lineal foot. Such facts as these need no

DIVORCE DAY IN CHICAGO.

Saturday is divorce day in Chicago, This day is, for some reason, set apart in the various courts for divorce business, and the reporters are always on hand. They give the quotations of the divorce market, which is usually brisk, record the salient incidents of the day in a breezy and entertaining fashion, and so make a picture of this phase of American life which is interesting and suggestive, and which some perhaps would find amusing.

On Saturday last, for example, Justice Hammer, who had married Albert Bingham and Mary E. Bingham only two years ago, appeared as attorney for the wife in an application for divorce. "I appear in the case in a dual capacity," he remarked in a jocular manner to Judge Gardner, and that cheerful magistrate replied, "That is all right, but it seems to me as if you were rather monopolizing the business." These pleasantries having put matters on a footing of general good-humor, the wife took the stand and testified that during the two years since she was married the husband had done nothing to support her, and that during the three months that they had lived together he had choked and otherwise abused her. The decree was granted. So also in the case of Mrs. Leverett, who went upon the stand in "a gay costume," and "smiling" as she began her story, and "conveying the impression," says the observant reporter, "that she had been the victim of a practical joke, and that she enjoyed it for all it was worth." She had been married a little more than two years, and her husband had deserted her after a few months. Her little child was with her, whom, as she explained, she had called simply Oliver Twist, without any Leverett. If he was to have any other name it would be Lane, her and, as the party passed out, young Oliver "created some merriment by exclaiming in meaningless and lisping syllables, 'O, Pa.'" In one of these cases of desertion, the judge was not fully satisfied by the evidence: Maria Wheeler became a wife in November 1879, her busband leaving the same day for Oakland, California, saying that when he found work he would send for her. He had never done so, but after a few months wrote that they might better live apart, and that she could get a divorce. The judge was not content, however, with the evidence.

Not all the cases were of the same cheerful character as those just cited. There were some painful stories told of cruelty and neglect. The proportion of divorces granted was not so large as usual, however, and the newspapers seemed disposed to regard it as, on the whole, rather an unsuccessful day. But times of depression must be expected in every industry, and we doubt not that by another Saturday the bench and bar and the newspapers will have regained their cheerful tone, and the divorce business will be as brisk as usual.

JUSTICE TO PERRY BELMONT.

It is surprising how circumstances conspire against Perry Belmont. The distinguishing characteristic of that promising young man is his modesty, which is due alike to his native refinement and the influences and associations of an illustrious lineage. And yet, by some malign combination, circumstances are always contriving to give him an appearance of juvenile concert and impudence, which is utterly foreign to his real nature. Just now over-zealous friends are making him, in spite of himself, a candidate for Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee against S. S. Cox. Mr. Cox is a statesman who occasionally breaks into capers, which neither we nor the rest of his true friends can sincerely approve. But he has done excellent public service in his time. He began his career in Congress when Perry Belmont was still lending marbles to his playmates, at ten per cent a month on the original cost, and selling them an inferior article of molasses candy at prices far above the market rate. Mr. Cox has a special knowledge of foreign matters, and, of all the Democrats in Congress, is probably the one best qualified to be head of that committee. Everybody knows that it is Indicrous to mention Perry Belmont against him. Poor young Mr. Belmont knows it well, and yet his injudicious friends are forcing him into such a position of rivalry with Mr. Cox, and making him appear to be such a forward and froward and generally impertinent and self-asserting youth, that distinguished Democrats have said that they would not serve on the committee with him if he is made chairman. This must be very trying. It would be still more so if Speaker Carlisle should disregard Mr. Belmont's well-known desire that Mr. Cox should be made chairman.

Then there is the matter of the Democratic Cancus Committee of the House. It is well known that there was a universal desire among the Democratic members, on account of Perry Belmont's ripe experience as a statesman, and his ability as a parliamentary leader, as shown in that terrific tourney in which he unborsed Mr. Blaine with a penholder,universal desire, we repeat, to make him Chairman of the Caucus Committee. But he would not bear of it, and withdrew just as far as he could, which was only as far as the office of Secretary This his friends insisted that he must take, and again, in their maladroit way, they succeeded only in giving the impression that he was anxious for this place for the sake of notoriety and influence. It really seems as if Perry Belmont would never get a chance to show just how modest he can be, Yet another accident befell aim, General Rosecrans, who was made chairman, gave Mr. Belmont the other day a call for a caucus. Just at this moment Perry's incurable bashfulness overcame him so completely that he could not issue the call, and his enemies spread about the rumor that he had said ho did not issue it because he saw no necessity for a

Thus do misfortunes accumulate upon the head of a young man whose only ambition is to get as far into the background as he can, and pull the background after him, whereas the public is rapidly growing to think of him as the brazen Small Boy of politics, always ready to elbow older and better men out of the way, so that he can push into the front rank of the crowd. Last year his friends shoved him forward in this way into the position of a candidate for Governor. They likewise crowded a public dinner upon him, from which, in his modest delphfa. Here for once they shared his peculiarity, for they were too bashful to come forward and pay the bill till they were sued for it.

Under the statue of Justice which crowns the City Hall stood yesterday in close conversation Hubert O. Thompson, Commissioner of Public Works, and Colonel John R. Fellows, one of the prosecuting officers of the County of New-York. This sociation suggested to the observer the reflection that it might be prophetic of a meeting of these men when the bar of a criminal court should separate them and the demands of justice be fulfilled.

We have had strikes of workers and strikes of railroad men, strikes of sewing girls and telegraph operators. But now, it seems, we are to have a strike of Kings. The Khedive of Egypt declares he will abdicate if Great Britain does not put down El Mahdi. The man has some sense. What use is there in being a ruler if a man cannot have things his own way? Kings have wants and necessities as well as Socialistic spouters, " walking delegates," and the working-people who support them in idle ness. If a worker cannot live like a King, let him strike. Also, if a King cannot have his own way, and manage his employer's business for him, let him strike. England hires the Khedive, and pays him big wages to do nothing. Now he proposes to run lris employer's business, or strike,

Speaker Carlisle tells a reporter that there are 56 members who desire places on the Commerce Committee. The Commerce Committee consists of 15 members; 15 goes into 56 3 times and 11 over, And yet there be those who look with feelings approaching to envy upon a Speaker.

THE TRIBUNE yesterday referred to the peculiar behavior of certain newspapers in this city, which make loud professions of devotion to reform, but which have so far failed to discover that there is anything which needs reforming in the Department of Public Works, although THE TRIBUNE has proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that it is the most corrupt of municipal departments. These newspapers yesterday ignored altogether the meeting of the Young Men's Democratic Club, held on Monday evening. That meeting was one of unusual importance The club took up the question of holding spring elec tions for the choice of municipal officers, and this was discussed by a number of prominent Democrats. These reform newspapers have often given a good deal of space to much less important meetings of this club. Yesterday they had not a word. Was this because a series of extremely foreible resolutions concerning the corruption in Mr. Thompson's department was presented? Or was it merely a

coincidence? A recount of the vote in Ohlo on the Prohibitory amendment is in progress, and important errors in the returns have been found. The Cleveland Leader expresses the belief that the amendment may have been carried, but whether the erroneous returns were made by carelessness, ignorance, or with fraudulent intent to defeat the measure, does not appear. It is announced, however, that the count is to be extended to every polling district in the State, because the errors already found are so large. It may be suspected that some Democratic politicians are now anxious to escape the dilemma in which they are placed, with saloon men to punish them if they do not repeal the Scott law, and taxpayers to punish them if they do.

For one thing, we protest that our late candidate for Speaker of a Democratic House, Mr. Cox, shall not be set aside for any such person as Mr. Belmont.

the Member for Ireland, but a Member for New-York, a part of the United States of America. The notion that All Ireland is going to rise up and smash things, if this man or that be not put into a particular office, has gone about far enough. A man who makes it his business to forget that he is an American citizen, in order perpetually to remember that he was born in some other land, has no business to ask anything from the Government of this country. To do him justice, the average American citizen of Irish nativity does not care a single whift of a pipe whether one man or another gets office. He votes "the regular ticket," as he has a right to do, but all the fretting and threatening about political positions is done by the squad of demagogues who trade on their pretended position as Irishmen of influence. Some of these persons appear to have become heated in behalf of Mr. Cox, and have done him an injury.

Some French statesman has proposed to repeal the law by which the trade of French colonies was opened to all countries. It does not seem unnatural if France levies a protective tariff for itself, that it should wish colonies to have the same system. At present, the performance is just the reverse of the British: England proclaims free trade, and English colonies protect themselves. Moreover, when berated for what they do, they reply that they know what they want better than the Parliamentary representatives of British manufacturers-and of unhappy British workmen.

It is gratifying to be told that the report of the Danville "Committee of Forty" is to be analyzed and answered. The resolution adopted by the Republican National Committee at its meeting in Washington, on the motion of Secretary Chandler, expresses the sentiments of all Republicans as to bulldozing and fraud in the Southern States. It has not received all the attention it deserved in the North-much less in the South. We take the liberty of quoting it here:

ty of quoting it here:

Resolved, That this committee views with regret and indignation the recent attempts to suppress human rights and to destroy free suffrage and an honest counting of ballots in various States by methods at war with humanity and civilization. Against the prevalence of such methods, the Republican party stands irrevocably pledged, and we extend our sympathy to all the sufferes from such inhumanities, and pledge our earnest and unconditional co-operation and the right hand of our fellowship to all men and all organizations, whatever may have been their past political action, who now unreservedly commit themselves to organized efforts to secure free education, free suffrage, and the protection of life and property to all citizens without regard to their race or color, political opinions, or votes.

We respectfully recommend this for general

We respectfully recommend this for general outhern reading, but more especially in the neighborhood of Danville, and in Copiah County, Miss. So far as it seems to approve Mahoneism, there will be some dissent, but with that exception it represents the unanimous sentiment of the ruling party

## PERSONAL.

Miss Susan B. Anthony is the guest of Mrs. Spofford in Washington.

Mr. Matthew Arnold will spend to-day and tomorrow in Washington, visiting the White House, the Capitol and various leading Departments.

Senator Augus Cameron has returned to Washogton this fall with a snow-white beard on his face, which previously has been smooth-shaven, except ing a mustache. He cultivated the board while cataping out in the Yellowstone region last summer, and it quite transforms his appearance.

"So Joe Brown," writes a Cleveland Leader orrespondent, " is being denominated the slavegang Senator, because he has a lot of penitentiary onvicts who work in his coal mines in Georgia They cost him less than \$20 a year apiece, and I varrant' you they have to work hard, for Brown was brought up to labor. He was born in the Pickns district of South Carolina sixty-two years ago, and when a boy used to haul vegetables to the county seat and had a team with which he used to plough the garden plots of the villagers. He has a brother in South Carolina now who has a good plantation, and is worth some money, but nothing like that of Joe, who is worth, I am told, perhaps five millions, and keeps adding to his pile by compound interest."

Theodore Tilton is living quietly in the Quartier Latin, Paris, near the School of Fine Arts, engaged busily in literary work. "I have not had a vacation for many years," he says. "I have my portfolios full of unfinished work. It struck me that if I could get away into some quiet nook like this, I should find opportunity to complete what I have begun. I may remain here all winter, with the ex-ception of a little visit to Rome. I am quite alone, both of my married daughters now being in Chi-

Alexandre Dumas contributes to the Curieux an anecdote told him by the late Henri Didier, who ras a Deputy under the Second Empire father was secretary to the Ministry of the Interior at the time when the Duchess de Berri was arrested at Nantes at the end of her attempt to raise the ountry against Louis Philippe and in favor of her son, the Comte de Chambord. The traitor Deutz agreed to sell to the Government the secret of her iding-place for 500,000 francs, and it was the elder Didier's duty to pay the scoundrel for his dirty work. He took his son Henri into the oce and said : work. He took his son Henri into the oce and said:

"Look well now at what passes, and never forget it.

You will learn what a lache is, and the method of
paying him." Deutz was then brought into the room
where M. Didier was standing behind his desk, on
which were placed two packets, each of which contained 250,000 frames. As beutz neared the desk
M. Didier made a sign to him to stop. Then taking
a pair of tongs he extended the packets one after
the other into the hands open to receive them. Not
a word was spoken, and when the transfer was
effected M. Didner point sd to the door.

#### TALKS ABOUT TOWN. THE CASINO "FIRE-BUG."

Edward Aronson, Casino.—We feel here that we are inder obligations not only to the public and to theatrical iterests generally, but to the Casino stockholders especially, to prosecute Rough, who attempted to fire the neatre, to the full extent of the law, and to secure his trial as promptly as possible. The swiftness as well as the severity of his punishment ought to have a salutary effect, and we are, therefore, urging immediate trial The stockholders have ungrudgingly supported the managers in the effort to make the building as secure as it is beautiful; and for their sakes, and as an assurance to the public that it will be carefully guarded from any in endiary attempts, we are resolved to prosecute Rough emptly. The fellow told me that he had intended when the alarm of fire was given to rush in from the street and take heroic efforts to extinguish the flames, in the hope that we would forgive and re-employ him. Now he asks that we let him go and he promises to leave the country forever. Of course it is too late now, even if we should dream of doing such a thing.

WANTED, A CURE FOR IMPERTINENCE. Baron Evans .- When, dear boy, is there to be a st-stop out to th-this dreadful outrageous journalism which p-perdits a ruffiauly rep-reporter t-to invade a la-ady's and ask her impert-ti nent questions about herself affecting her r-reputation! Editors cert-tainly do not encourage or know of their conduct. How are you g-going to stop lt? And what with ! The t-toe of your b-boot? But, dear boy, Indies don't w-wear boots; and t-these fellows never g-go to men-a in t-this way, you know.

UNEXPENDED BALANCES.

issioner Henry H. Porter, Charities and Correct ion.-I am opposed to the transfer of unexpended balances of one department to another department's credit. But I think that the unexpended balance of one bureau may be properly transferred to the credit of another bureau of the same department. The first case is not unlike the proposition to give A, who has lost money as a grocer, the profits which B has made as a ter merchant. The second case is similar to that which occurs in every business-the profits on the wine in a grocer's business going to pay his losses on sugar. It happens very often that certain bureaus of the Departnt of Charities and Correction cost less than we estimated they would, and that, too, without there being any particular credit attaching to these bureaus. On the other hand fluctuations in the markets may make other expected; but this cannot be considered our fault. The general result should be considered; and if we exceed the general appropriation for the department we ought to be criticised.

THE REV. DR. COE.

John Lenhart, Western Union,-The Rev. Dr. Edward B, Coe, of the Dutch Reformed Church, at Forty-eighth-st. and Fifth-ave., is attracting more attention in other cities than the one in which he preaches every Sunday. He has recently had calls from Boston and New-Haven. He is a son-in-law of the Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs, of Brooklyn. and is about thirty-five years old. He has a fine and forcible delivery, and is really not appreciated here as he

MUSIC-THE DRAMA. AN AMERICAN WIFE The heroine of this little comedy is a lady who has left the society of her husband because she

believes he has been unfaithful to her, and because she is sure that, whether unfaithful or not, he has wounded her in the soul, and has become obnoxious to her in all respects. After having thus deserted her married mate she has met with another man, seemingly more to her taste, who loves her, and whom she loves in return. But her husbandalthough he detests her, and is a libertine, a rake, and a scoundrel-is not disposed to tolerate this convenient abandonment, for the reason that it inflicts a wound upon his vanity and deprives him of her fortune. Accordingly he has pursued and discovered her in a rural retreat, and he now commands her to return to their home-threatening that unless she obeys he will seize their child, of whom the law, in such a case, would give him the custody. In this dilemma she would be compelled to yield to her cruel destiny and return to the matrimonial bower, but it is fortunately made known and proved that her husband has, in fact, broken his marriage vows, and, under a false name, wedded and abandoned another woman; so that his wife is now legally entitled to her divorce, and can contract a fresh marriageof course with the new aspirant to her vacated affections. These persons and facts, displayed against a background of domestic commonplaces, are associated with a villa residence somewhere up the Hudson River-the household of a retired merchant, with several friends of himself and family, being slenderly attached to the main scheme of the

Viewed as a lesson in morals and in law, "An

American Wife" may justly be designated a salutary piece. Its author, apparently, designs to imply that married persons ought not to be constrained to an association which has become hateful, and that infidelity and physical violence are not the only causes that should be held to warrant and justify divorce. But, probably-considering the infirmities of human nature and the complications of human society-it would not be possible to frame any system of law whereby the individual might, in every instance, find relief, without offence to the public good. An injured wife or an injured husband can, under certain circumstances, get free from the matrimonial fetter. Somewhat to enlarge the scope of those liberating circumstances might be to assuage many griefs. Much to enlarge it would make marriage a farce, and destroy the institution of family -upon which, mainly, the fabric of society rests. That there is need of the wisest legislation on this subject; that a woman (or a man) may be unjustly and cruelly oppressed by the matrimonial yoke, and may deserve relief without being able to find it: and that courtship and marriage are far too lightly regarded in these days, are, seemingly, the truths which underlie the structure of this play, and which may be said to constitute the moral drift of its author. The piece is therefore salutary. "Many people heed a song, who will not heed a sermon ": and many, doubtless, might by means of a drama have their attention drawn to questions of vital importance which otherwise they would pass with heedless indifference. In the story, and afterward in the play of "Man and Wife," for example, Wilkie Collins rendered a great service to his generation as well as to literature and art.

Viewed as a play, on the other hand," An American Wife" misses its mark, through dulness. The strongest moral that ever was brewed will not avail to redeem that defect in a dramatic composition. Virtue, on the stage, especially in modern plays, is almost always brought into contempt, by being made insipid; and this is an injury to the public, and not a benefit. Words are inadequate to describe the mischief which has been wrought by (for example) the Madison Square Theatre series of goody dramas. Innocently wrought, of course, but not less certainly, for all that! Judge Barrett's play of 'An American Wife" has been built upon such lines of mere didacticism that it rises but a little way above the level of theatrical mediocrity. The story is trite, the characters are colorless, the movement is slow, the dialogue is monotonous, the culmination is tame, the slender plot is encumbered with much needless detail, and the conclusion simply amounts to this-that a moral which no body disputes is urged in a way for which nobody cares. Scenes such as occur in actual life-colloquies about nothing, frolies at a pienic, domestic talks, much writing and reading of letters, telegrams, etc.are indeed, presented. But the photography of commonplaces is even less interesting than moral precept. It ought not ever to be needful to remind a writer for the stage that only the essentially dramatic aspects of life should be selected for a play, and that even these should be combined according to a due regard for the delicate exaggeration essential to inspiriting effect. Judge Barrett has written with excellent intention, and like the scholar that he is so well known to be. But his moral ideas and his legal lore are in excess of his dramatic invention, and however much his play

may instruct, it fails to delight, The audience was large, and it received the piece with eager interest, kindly appreciation and patient respect. At the end of the third act there was a vociferous call for the author—to which, at first, Mr. Gilbert responded, in Judge Barrett's name; but upon its renewal, the distinguished Justice himself appeared in one of the stage boxes, and acknowledged the courtesy of the public. The play has been very handsomely set, one of its three scenes, in particular (a view of the shores of the Hudson), being very beautiful. Its characters were, in every important respect, presented earnestly, zealously and with skill Miss Coghlan enacts the persecuted wife, and her assertion of the mother's love and the woman's defiance, was instinct with right feeling and impressive force. Mr. Gerald Eyre was especially felicitous, as the French adventurer, and Mr. Tearle gave due dignity and importance to the image of injured woman's champion. A stormy collotient respect. At the end of the third act there age of injured woman's champion. A stormy colloquy between these two actors, and a kindred encounter immediately ensuing between Miss Coglillan and Mr. Eyre, furnish the only real opportunities of the play; and these were amply improved.

THE GLASS OF FASHION. One of Ophelia's phrases about Hamlet is

used as a title for Mr. Grundy's comedy, now current in London, at the Globe Theatre, and on Monday night presented here, at the Fifth Avenue. reflective of society in its fashionable aspect. The anthor will set up a glass wherein Fashion may see herself, if not as she is, at least as she appears to be in the eyes of an attentive and somewhat satirical observer. Mr. Grondy seems to consider her as an odd jumble of ingredients, mostly frivolous and in various ways offensive. At least he has mirrored a number of persons and incidents, chiefly of a trivial and disagreeable character, making them tributary to the old, old story of polished and insidious rascality that preys on woman's vanity and trouble the domestic peace of a good man. The persons are Col. Trecanion and his wife; Macadam, a rich brewer, and Lady Coombe, his wife; Prince Borowski, a rascal; Mr. Prior Jenkins, editor of a society newspaper entitled The Glass of Fashion, and Peggy O'Reilly, the sister of Mrs. Trecunion. The scene is London, at the present time. The action displays Borowski's endeavor to ruin Mrs. Trecasion, by entangling her in the vice of gambling, by luring her into a compromising situation, and by violent and threatening amatory manifestations. The culmination is the defeat of this rascal, which is accomplished by the strapped lady's sprightly sister, and then Mr. and Mrs. Trecanion are reconciled and left in peace. This is the main plot; but with this is blended a sub-

plot, of an eccentric quality, displaying the troubles of the rich brewer, whose wife is also a gambler, and who is in duced by Jenkins to buy the Glass-of-Fushion newspaper in order that he may become a power in the social world, Mr. Grundy directs his satire against the vice of gambling and against "the professional beauty" nulsance, and, by obvious implication, he rebukes the glddy-headed vanity and the love of admiration and of thoughtless excite ment which sometimes deface the characters of women, otherwise lovable, and entail misery upon themselves and their friends. His moral drift, accordingly, is good, and his spirit and teaching are wholesome. Didactic worth, however, is not a dramatic attribute, and neither that virtue nor the merit of applicability to any particular phase of contemporary custom will suffice to make a good play. The strength of this peace is really in its character-drawing, its incident and its dialogue. The Lady Teasle and Joseph Surface, or Mrs. Mildmay and Captain Harksley business of its plot is neither fresh nor strong: Harkaley business of its plot is neither fresh nor strong; but several of its persons are delineated with vigor,—notably Peg O'Reilly, and Macadam and Jenkins; the ancient trick of substituting one lady for another, at a vital juncture, is used in it with skill; and much of its language is crisp and pungent. Its incidental excertation of some of the vices of society journais st—that evertasting flux of kitchen slop, and potty, insight, masty-minded tab